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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/877,835	06/08/2001	R. Dennis Nesbitt	SLD 20214-3	2483

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Michelle Bugbee
Spalding Sports Worldwide, Inc.
425 Meadow Street
P.O. Box 901
Chicopee, MA 01021-0901

EXAMINER

HUNTER, ALVIN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3711

DATE MAILED: 05/29/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

EC

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/877,835

Applicant(s)

NESBITT, R. DENNIS

Examiner

Alvin A. Hunter

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 12-17 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 11, 18 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on October 10, 2002 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6213895 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-16, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Melvin et al. (USPN 5779562).

Melvin et al. discloses a multi-core, multi-cover golf ball having a core comprised of a center core layer and outer core layer and a cover comprised of an inner and outer cover layer (See Abstract). The center core layer and the outer core layer is made of polybutadiene any may also contain other types of materials such as a thermoset rubber or a thermoset elastomer material (See Column 5, lines 11 through 51). The polybutadiene comprises zinc diacrylate as the crosslinking agent (See Column 6, lines 1 through 11). The center core layer has a diameter of about 10 to 35mm, or .0394 to 1.378 inches, and the outer core layer has a diameter of about 30 to 40mm, 1.181 to 1.575 inches (See Column 9, lines 20 through 28). Inherently, the outer core layer has a

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thickness of about 2.5 to 10mm, or 0.098 to 0.394 inches. The inner and outer cover layers both comprise ionomer resin (Column 12, lines 41 through 47; and paragraph bridging Column 14 and 15). The inner cover layer is harder than the outer cover layer wherein the inner cover layer has a Shore D hardness of 60 or more and the outer cover layer has a Shore D hardness of 55 or less (See Column 12, lines 30 through 40; and paragraph bridging Column 14 and 15).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Melvin et al. (USPN 5779562) in view of OFFICIAL NOTICE.

Melvin et al. does not disclose the outer cover layer having two or more layers. OFFICIAL NOTICE is taken that having a core more than two layers are advantageous in distributing the weight and specific gravity of the golf ball. One having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to have a core or core layer with two or more layers in order to optimize the weight distribution and specific gravity of the golf ball.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10, 11, 18, and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments


Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin A. Hunter whose telephone number is 703-306-5693. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30AM to 4:00PM Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Sewell, can be reached on (703) 308-2126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9302.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.


Paul T. Sewell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700